

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 121545Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2428

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USNATO

EUCOM

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ASEC, TU

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC UNREST

REF: (A) ANKARA 769, (B) AKARA 707, (C) ANKARA 671

(D) ANKARA 441, (E) ANKARA 137

1. THE WORST WINTER IN DECADES AND THE RECESS OF MAJOR UNIVERSITIES HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY A RESPITE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, BUT THE RETURN OF BETTER WEATHER AND THE RESUMPTION OF CLASSES AT ANKARA, HACETTEPE AND MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES (METU) WILL PROBABLY SIGNAL THE END TO THIS RELATIVELY QUIET PERIOD.

2. ON JANUARY 28 STUDENTS AT BLACK SEA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN TRABZON PROTESTED THE BLOODY CLASHES OF SECURITY FORCES WITH LEFTIST MILITANTS AT ZEYTINBURNU IN ISTANBUL AND AT MALATYA

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(REFTELS B, C, AND D). JANUARY 28-29 THERE WERE DISTURBANCES

IN KONYA INVOLVING RIGHTIST AND LEFTIST YOUTHS. ALSO ON THE 28TH JANDARMA ENGAGED A GROUP OF ARMED MEN IN MARDIN PROVINCE NEAR THE SYRIAN BORDER. FIVE PERSONS WERE KILLED AND A DOZEN WOUNDED. PRESS REPORTS OF THE INCIDENT INDICATE THE PERSONS INVOLVED WERE LIVESTOCK SMUGGLERS RATHER THAN POLITICAL TERRORISTS; HOWEVER, SUCH LEFTIST SPOKESMEN AS MEHMET ALI AYBAR OF THE TURKISH SOCIALIST PARTY CALLED THE INCIDENT A "MASSACRE" AND LINKED IT WITH THE BLOODSHED AT ZEYTINBURNU AND MALATYA. A DEMONSTRATION BY RIGHTISTS AS SUNGURLU, CORUM PROVINCE JANUARY 30 RESULTED IN SOME TWENTY-FIVE ARRESTS. IN ANKARA ON JANUARY 31 TURKISH WOMEN STAGED A "MOTHERS' PROTEST" AGAINST THE CONTINUING VIOLENCE AMONG THE YOUNG. ON FEBRUARY 1 THE GOVERNOR OF ANKARA PROVINCE CLOSED DOWN THE RADICAL LEFTIST METU STUDENTS ASSOCIATION FOR "ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE OBJECTIVES" OF ITS CHARTER.

3. ON FEBRUARY 11 SAMIH ERBEK, A METU STUDENT, DIED FROM INJURIES SUFFERED DURING THE JANUARY 3 ATTACK ON METU BUSES BY SUPPOSED RIGHTIST COMMANDOS (REFTEL E). ALTHOUGH POLICE REFUSED TO HAND OVER ERBEK'S BODY TO THEM, FELLOW STUDENTS STAGED A MEMORIAL PROTEST, INCLUDING A MARCH FROM HACETTEPE HOSPITAL TO ANKARA UNIVERSITY'S POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY. PROTESTERS CHARGED THAT METU ADMINISTRATION AND JANDARMA HAD ALLOWED "ERBEK'S MURDERERS," I.E., RIGHTISTS, TO TAKE FINAL EXAMINATIONS AT METU. THE LEFTIST ANKARA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING, "THIS MURDER (ERBEK'S) IS NEITHER THE FIRST NOR THE LAST BY THE COMMANDOS."

4. THE RIGHTIST "ULKU OCAKLARI" (IDEALIST HEARTHS) GENERALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE "COMMANDOS" AND CONSIDERED AN ARM OF THE NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP), CAME UNDER INCREASED PUBLIC CRITICISM RECENTLY. ULKU OCAKLARI PRESIDENT SAMI BAL RESIGNED FEBRUARY 1 FOLLOWING REVELATIONS THAT HE HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF HOMICIDE AND SUBSEQUENTLY HAD BENEFITTED FROM THE AMNESTY IN 1974. NAP SECRETARY-GENERAL ALBAYRAK DISCLAIMED ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE NAP AND THE ULKU OCAKLARI.

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